(d) As the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development and has so far not been enacted, it is not possible to estimate per capita/per day income generated through the opportunities of employment provided under the Bill.

**Purifying sea water into drinking water**

2453. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that certain State Government have set up plants in rural areas to convert sea water into protected drinking water;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been taken to finance those plants by giving suitable assistance to State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Some of the State Governments have setup plants in rural areas to convert sea water into protected drinking water. As rural drinking water supply is a State subject and Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), action plans to set-up and finance these plants are drawn up by the State Governments

(c) and (d) 15% of ARWSP funds allocated to the State Governments are earmarked for tackling quality problems, including salinity, by setting up desalination plants both for brackish water and conversion of sea water into potable water. The funding pattern between the Centre and the States is in the ratio of 75:25. Full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling quality problems.

**Marketing of rural products**

2454. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: